## Message Text

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P R 221522Z DEC 76 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2393 INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

**UNCLAS MOSCOW 19974** 

TEL AVIV FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ABLD, AFSR, UR, US

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SOVIET NOTE OF NOVEMBER 3 ON EMBASSY

**REF: STATE 308872** 

- 1. COPY OF TEXT OF NOTE GIVEN TO VORONTSOV BY EAGLEBURGER DECEMBER 21 PASSED DECEMBER 22 TO MFA USA DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR FEDOSEYEV AND COUNSELOR MIKHALCHUK, REPLACING ANTIPOV, BY ACTING POL COUNSELOR AND ADMINOFF. FEDOSEYEV INDICATED THAT MFA WOULD STUDY RESPONSE BUT THAT HE FELT THAT DATES SPECIFIED WERE UNREALISTIC. US SIDE RESPONDED THAT WE CONSIDERED THIS POSITIVE RESPONSE INASMUCH AS SOME OF OUR NEEDS HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING MORE THAN THREE YEARS. WE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THIS NOTE INDICATES FLEXIBILITY IN OUR POSITION AND THAT WITH SUITABLE SOVIET RESPONSE MOST, IF NOT ALL, DIFFICULTIES COULD QUICKLY BE CLEARED UP.
- 2. FEDOSEYEV PRESSED ISSUE OF BEGINNING DATE FOR CONSTRUCTION IN WASHINGTON. WE REITERATED TO HIM THE RELEVANT PORTIONS OF DEPARTMENT'S NOTE AND THE COMMENTS BY EAGLEBURGER TO VORONTSOV ON THIS POINT.

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3. SUBSEQUENTLY, MIKHALCHUK CALLED ACTING POL COUNS TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION. SOVIET AIDE-MEMOIRE OF NOV 3 HAD RESPONDED TO AMERICAN SIDE'S REQUESTS CONCERNING ADDITONAL ITEMS, HE SAID, AND AT THAT TIME AMERICAN SIDE HAD SAID IT WOULD GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION, IF THERE WERE PROGRESS ON THESE ITEMS, TO PERMITTING CON-

STRUCTION OF THE FIRST STAGE OF SOVIET HOUSING IN WASHINGTON TO BEGIN. CAN SOVIET SIDE UNDERSTAND TODAY'S DISCUSSION, HE ASKED, TO MEAN THAT AMERICAN SIDE HAS NOTHING AGAINST IMMEDIATE START OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST STAGE OF SOVIET HOUSING IN WASHINGTON, WHILE THE ADDITIONAL ITEMS PUT FORWARD BY THE AMERICAN SIDE WERE CONSIDERED IN THE MEANTIME.

4. ACTING POL COUNS REPLIED THAT IF IT PROVES POSSIBLE
TO ACHIEVE SATISFACTORY COMMITMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE
ISSUES RAISED IN OUR DEC 21 NOTE, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD
PROVE POSSIBLE TO GRANT PERMISSION TO BEGIN HOUSING
CONSTRUCTION. AS STATED IN THE NOTE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY
TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESS WHEN IT RECONVENED IN JANUARY,
AND SATISFACTORY COMMITMENTS ON THESE ISSUES WOULD BE
ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL CONSULTATIONS. BUT, AS MR. EAGLEBURGER HAD POINTED OUT TO MINISTER VORONTSOV, IF ADEQUATE
COMMITMENTS ARE MADE THERE APPEARED TO BE NO REASON WHY
PERMISSION TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION CANNOT FOLLOW IN SHORT ORDER.
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